



The School District of Osceola County
**MULTICULTURAL
 EDUCATION
 DEPARTMENT**

Newsletter

August/September

Welcome Back

Dear Parents and Community Members,

¡Bienvenidos! Bienvenue! Benvenuto! Bem vinda! Akeyi! On behalf of the Multicultural Education Department, I extend a warm welcome to a new school year. As executive director, I am proud to share that this is the first of many newsletters and supports our talented and dedicated team will provide you as you work in partnership with the schools to meet the unique needs of the students. Our collective work will afford them the opportunity to acquire academic language as a first step to successful academic achievement. As a former English Language Learner from Puerto Rico and a graduate of Osceola County schools, it is my personal mission to ensure that English Language Learners are recognized as accelerated learners. It is an honor to be able to “come home” and serve in this capacity.



Much has changed since my elementary years when my family moved to Florida. Did you know that students in Osceola County proudly represent 147 different countries and speak over 106 languages? More than 15,481 students (about 25% of the total student population) participate in the school district's ESOL program. To meet their diverse needs, we provide a Sheltered approach as well as Dual Language models. In fact, this coming year we will be expanding Dual Language by adding classes at the pre-kindergarten level. Immigrant resources provided are designed to enhance instructional opportunities for recently-arrived immigrant children and youth. We also affirm the value of diversity, honor multiple cultures and foreign languages, and strengthen the relationships between cultures in our community by offering several world languages at various school sites. In order to prepare students to be well-rounded members in a global society, students also have the opportunity to participate in the Seal of Biliteracy Program which provides prospective employers or postsecondary institutions with a method of recognizing applicants with biliteracy skills. Being bilingual and biliterate is a value added to the rigorous education offered throughout our district.

How do we use language to teach students to navigate their own journeys from good to great? Through the hard work, dedication and collaboration between the students, educators and parents just like you. I encourage you to be engaged in your child's education, curricular activities and network with other parents and community members at Parent Leadership Council (PLC), Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and School Advisory Council (SAC) meetings. Take some time to look through our website for updated information and helpful tools: http://osceolaschools.net/departments/multicultural_education. You can also stay connected on Twitter: @OsceolaMultEd.

Best wishes for a successful school year!

Belinda Reyes
 Executive Director

Belinda Reyes
 Executive Director

Diana Agostini
 Executive Secretary

Marybel Vega-Mojica
 Bookkeeper

Frances Vasquez
 Student Records Clerk

Eugenia Otero
 Office Clerk

Naira Alvira
 Bilingual Community Liaison

Magaly Pacheco
 Immigrant and ESOL
 Program Specialist

Winy B Denis
 Trilingual Immigrant
 Community Liaison
 (Eng/Hait. Creole/ Fren)

Deborah Oms
 Student Educational Specialist

Tamara Agosto-Walker
 Dual Language Resource Specialist

Zayra Diaz
 ESOL and World Languages
 Educational Specialist

Calendar:

- 09/04/2017 Labor Day—
No school
- 09/13/2017 Elementary,
Middle, and High
School Progress
Reports
- 10/05/2017 Multicultural
Education
Department PLC

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
OSCEOLA COUNTY,
FLORIDA

Our Mission: Inspiring all
learners to reach their highest
potential as responsible,
productive citizens.

Multicultural
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[www.osceolaschools.net/
departments/
multicultural_education](http://www.osceolaschools.net/departments/multicultural_education)



Follow us on twitter
@OsceolaMultEd

PARENT HOTLINE

(407) 870-4850

Important Information for Parents

As parents we want to see our children succeed in school and reach their highest potential. Family engagement plays an essential role in academic success. For that reason, we encourage you to follow the recommendations presented below throughout the school year:

- Make sure your child attends school every day.
- Actively communicate with your child's teacher(s). You may communicate via email, through the student agenda or by phone. **If you need interpretation services in order to effectively communicate with the teacher, contact the ESOL Specialist at your school.**
- Check and sign your child's agenda every day. This is a great way to stay informed about your child's classwork assignments and homework.
- Check your child's backpack every day and read any information sent from school such as the school's newsletters and flyers for family engagement events.
- Monitor your child's academic progress, attendance, and behavior records using the Parent Portal. You may find the instructions on how to register by visiting the Parents section of the district's website at www.osceolaschools.net.
- Refer to the district's calendar for progress reports and report card distribution dates. You will receive a copy in the welcome back packet the first day of school or you may find it in the district's website at www.osceolaschools.net.
- Register as an OASIS volunteer by completing the application on www.osceolaschools.net and when possible serve as a volunteer at your child's school. In order to serve as a chaperone in any school fieldtrip, you must be an OASIS approved volunteer.
- Participate in the School Advisory Council (SAC) and Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) meetings at your school. You may contact your school for more details.
- Visit your school's website regularly to access important up-to-date information.
- If you have any concerns about your child's academic progress or performance in school, request a meeting as soon as possible with the teacher and the ESOL Specialist at your school.

We are looking forward to working together this school year to ensure all of our students are successful in school.

ESOL 101

What is ESOL?

ESOL is English for Speakers of Other Languages.

What are ESOL services? ESOL services are designed specifically to improve the language proficiency of students whose native language is not English. Students have access to the grade level curriculum and all school services. Teachers are qualified to teach English for Speakers of Other Languages.

How does my child qualify for ESOL services?

It starts with the home language survey when you enroll your student during the registration process. Parent/guardian answered "yes" to any of the three home language survey questions:

- ◆ Is a language other than English used in the home?
- ◆ Does the student have a first language other than English?
- ◆ Does the student most frequently speak a language other than English?

Answering "Yes" to one or more of the home language survey questions will require your child to be screened for English language proficiency.

Does the school have to ask the parent's permission to test their children?

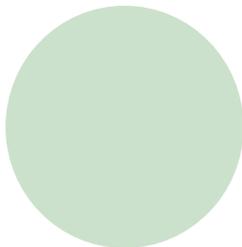
No. The school is required by law to test any student for English proficiency during the first thirty days in school.

How do students exit the program?

Students exit the ESOL program by passing the appropriate assessments and/or other considerations.

Can parents refuse placement of their child in the program?

No. The child must be served for at least one semester before the ELL committee meets to discuss ESOL placement.



Multicultural
Education Department

Our Mission: Empowering
Language Learners to reach
their highest potential and
embrace cultural diversity.



From Good to Great
Building a Legacy